IN THE CLAIMS

The following claims are pending in the present application:

1-33. (Cancelled)

34. (Previously presented) A hammer assembly, including: a housing;

a hammer received in the housing; and

a drive mechanism for reciprocating the hammer, wherein

the hammer is a substantially elongated weight with first and second tool ends located at opposing longitudinal ends of the weight, each tool end capable of extending through a lower opening end in the housing to strike the working surface, the hammer assembly characterised in that the hammer is capable of being removed from the housing, reversed and replaced in the housing, enabling either of the first and second tool ends orientated to extend through the lower opening end in the housing to be interchanged.

35. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 34, wherein the hammer includes at least one protrusion on each of two opposing hammer faces adapted for engagement with the drive mechanism.

36. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 34, wherein the hammer includes at least two protrusions adapted for engagement with the drive mechanism, said protrusions being located on a common hammer face.

37. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 34, wherein the hammer includes a protrusion thereon and the drive mechanism includes a loop

of chain having at least one dog fixed thereto and a motor for rotating the chain, the dog abutting the protrusion to lift the hammer away from the opening end of the housing.

38. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 34, wherein the housing is configured for attachment to an articulated arm of an excavator or other machine and the drive mechanism is enclosed within the housing.

39. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 35, further including a cushion fixed near the opening end of the housing for engaging the protrusion.

40. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 36, further including a cushion fixed near the opening end of the housing for engaging the protrusion.

41. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 34, wherein the hammer is adapted to drop under gravity toward the opening end of the housing before striking the working surface.

42. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 34, wherein the drive mechanism includes means for engaging and driving the hammer from the housing to strike the working surface.

43. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 34, wherein the hammer is propelled to strike the working surface by gravity and by engagement with the drive mechanism.

44. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 34, wherein the hammer is cylindrical.

45. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 34, wherein the hammer is multifaceted.

46. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 34, wherein the opposing hammer tool ends are non-identical.

47. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 34, wherein the tool ends are configured as a substantially flat surface, a blade, a substantially convex surface, substantially concave surface, or a spike.

48. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 34, wherein the drive mechanism configured to lift the hammer includes at least two sprockets, and at least one dog and a chain.

49. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 48, wherein a dog is attached to a chain and is adapted to engage the protrusion.

50. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 49, wherein a chain is adapted to be rotated around said at least two sprockets.

51. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 48, wherein the sprockets, dog and chain are aligned substantially parallel to the hammer.

52. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 48, wherein the sprockets, dog and chain are aligned substantially perpendicular to the hammer.

53. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 48, further including a connecting apparatus between the hammer and the hammer housing.

54. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 53, wherein the connecting apparatus is capable of elastic deformation.

55. (Previously presented) The hammer assembly as claimed in claim 53, wherein the connecting apparatus is detachable.

56. (Previously presented) A method of interchanging the tool ends on a hammer assembly including:

a housing;

a hammer received in the housing; and

a drive mechanism for reciprocating the hammer, wherein

the hammer is a substantially elongated weight with first and second tool ends located at opposing longitudinal ends of the weight, each tool end capable of extending through a lower opening end in the housing to strike the working surface, the hammer assembly characterised in that the hammer is capable of being removed from the housing, reversed and replaced in the housing, enabling either of the first and second tool ends orientated to extend through the lower opening end in the housing to be interchanged;

said method characterised by the steps of:

withdrawing the hammer from the housing,

reversing the orientation of the hammer, and

reinserting the hammer into the housing.